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Agenda item 6 (b)

Country and intercountry programming and projects

COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF

SOMALIA

Note by the Administrator

Programme period	IPF for 1977-1981
1979-1981	$18.25 million

I. Nature of the programming exercise

1. The Country Programme for the Somali Democratic Republic was formulated by the Government, in close consultation with UNDP. The preparatory activities included an evaluation of the first Country Programme of Somalia (1973-1977), sectoral programme reviews and circulation to all concerned of the Resident Representative's note on the second programme. A series of discussions was held with the Government concerning the nature and scope of UNDP technical co-operation during the second country programme period. The on-going projects were reviewed jointly by the Government and UNDP.

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2. The first draft of the Country Programme document was then prepared and distributed within the Government and the United Nations family, with an invitation for comments. The bilateral donors were also consulted by the Resident Representative on an informal basis. Comments were received from most of the United Nations system organizations. The final version of the programme was formulated in December 1979 at a meeting held with the relevant Ministries under the leadership of the Chairman of the State Planning Commission. The meeting was also attended by the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa, the UNDP Resident Representative and representatives from several UNDP Participating and Executing Agencies.

II. Relation of the Country Programme to national development objectives

3. Upon completion of the first Country Programme in December 1977, the Government decided to await the promulgation of the Three Year Development Plan (1979-1981) before formulating the second Country Programme, in order to ensure close co-ordination between the Plan and the Country Programme. Thus, the sectoral studies carried out by resident United Nations experts for the country programming exercise were also of use in identifying projects for the Development Plan. The principal aim of the new Plan is the completion and consolidation of all projects included in the Plan, which could not be fully realized due to a number of difficulties. These impediments included the severe drought of 1974/1975 which compelled the Government to undertake some new priority projects to relieve the unprecedented situation arising from the drought. The new Plan objectives have been defined as follows:

(a) Strengthening the crucial role of the public sector in economic production, commerce and financial institutions, and in the administration and inspection of the economic organs concerned with the material needs of the people;

(b) Strengthening the role of the co-operatives in agriculture, livestock production, fisheries, handicrafts, and in all other sectors of the economy;

(c) Encouraging private enterprises to participate actively in the economic development of the country, directing their investments to agricultural and livestock production, fisheries industries, mining, salt manufacturing and in any other sector that contributes to the development of the national economy and to the general prosperity of the people; and

(d) Eradication of all forms of exploitation and the creation of a society based on the principles of social justice and individual freedom.

4. In order to attain these objectives, the Government's targets in the field of agriculture are stated as the attainment of self-sufficiency in food production through increased productivity, increase in livestock exports by controlling common diseases, and increase in fish production as a source of food and of export earnings. Maximum utilization of indigenous raw materials in industrial production will be the Government's key objective in the manufacturing sector, while the exploration of mineral resources will be further intensified. To buttress the drive towards an expansion in commodity production and commerce, the roads, ports and marine communications as well as the capacity of the National Shipping Lines, will be further improved, and the capacity of telecommunications and civil aviation will also be further expanded to meet the increased domestic and international needs. In the human resources sector, the principal measures

for fulfilling the objectives of providing gainful employment to the entire labour force and raising living standards include enlarged enrolment at the primary, secondary and teacher training levels, and strengthening the health services. The eradication of communicable diseases has particular priority.

5. The Government has identified sectors and projects in respect of which external assistance, both capital and technical, is required to supplement the internal resources. The second Country Programme forms a small but important part of technical assistance to the Three Year Development Plan and UNDP assistance is directed to certain critical areas where, in the light of the Government's experience, it considers such assistance to be uniquely suited. Although,the Country Programme does not follow the Government's plan priorities very closely, it does reflect the Plan's broad objectives.

III. Content and phasing of the Country Programme

Table 1

Sectoral breakdown of programmed resources

Sector	Ongoing projects ($000)	Identified new projects ($000)	Total Value ($000)	Total Per cent
Rural development and food production	4 830	-	4 830	30.3
Human resources and social development	3 039	858	3 897	24.5
Economic infrastructure	2 664	-	2 664	16.7
Development planning	2 481	-	2 481	15.6
Natural resources and industrial development	2 062	-	2 062	12.9
Total programmed resources	15 076	858	15 934	100.0

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Table 2

Phasing of the Country Programme

A. Amounts programmed

Year	($ 000)
1979	4 437
1980	6 497
1981	5 000
	15 934

B. Resources taken into account for programming

	($ 000)
(a) IPF	
Resources available from 1977-1981 IPF cycle	18 250
Less	
Over-expenditure 1972-1976 cycle	(1 094)
1977 expenditure	(2 183)
1978 expenditure	(3 253)
IPF total available for programming	11 720
(b) LDC	
1976-1979 allocations	2 398
Less	
1976-1978 expenditure	(544)
LDC Funds available for programming	1 854
(c) Provision for adequate programming	2 360
Total of (a) + (b) + (c)	15 934

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6. Table 1 shows that nearly one-third of the programmed resource is devoted to rural development and food production, followed by human resources and social development (24.5 per cent of the resources), economic infrastructure (16.7 per cent), development planning (15.6 per cent) and natural resources and industrial development (12.9 per cent).

7. UNDP activities in rural development and food production are all related to crop production, fisheries development and animal health. Activities under crop production will be mainly in the field of research, plant protection, bird control and seed production. Fisheries development is a key project directed toward training the resettled nomads in fish production and processing and in the maintenance and management of equipment needed for fishing industry. Strengthening the animal diseases control project is expected to lead to better animal health by providing more accurate information on the incidence and economic significance of the animal diseases and their efficient diagnosis.

8. In human resources and social development, emphasis is placed on the development of human resources and the control of major communicable diseases. This effort is developed through projects in technical education and vocational training, manpower planning, and training in development administration and management. A new project - Labour Intensive Works Training Programme - receives complementary inputs from bilateral sources.

9. UNDP assistance in the economic infrastructure sector is concentrated in the field of telecommunications training and civil aviation development. Training projects in both areas will produce specialists in various disciplines, and an advisory project in telecommunications will assist in transition from high frequency to satellite techniques. Based on the findings of the latter project, a civil aviation development project will assist in the establishment of an efficient civil aviation system.

10. The one project proposed in the field of development planning will provide assistance in the preparation of the next development plan as well as in the identification and preparation of projects. The previous planning project provided assistance in the preparation of the current Three Year Development Plan.

11. Assistance in the field of natural resources and industrial development will take the form of strengthening Geological Survey and support for the Foundry and Mechanical Workshop. The Geological Survey project will enable the Government to independently assess, promote and control the exploitation of its mineral resources. The output of the Workshop is expected to have a beneficial impact on the supplies of agricultural implements and spare parts. In addition the assistance to the Ministry of Industry will improve its capacity in planning, programming and implementation of industrial activities.

12. In total, 28 projects are proposed for implementation during the programming period. Although only three are identified as new projects, nine of the remaining projects started operations only in 1978, after the completion of the first Country Programme; 12 of the 28 projects should, therefore, be considered as "new" projects designed to meet the country's priority needs.

Table 3

Sectoral breakdown by size of project

	Large-scale projects			Small-scale projects		
	Number	Allocation ($ 000)	Per Cent	Number	Allocation ($ 000)	Per Cent
Rural development and food production	5	4 507	31	3	323	24
Human and social development	4	2 995	20	6	902	69
Economic infrastructure	3	2 607	18	1	57	4
Development planning	1	2 481	17			
Natural resources and industrial development	3	2 032	14	2	30	2
	16	14 622	100	12	1 312	100

13. Table 3 shows that most of the resources (92 per cent) are devoted to 16 large-scale projects. Of the 12 small-scale projects, six are scheduled for completion in 1979, which points again to the importance which the Government accords to large-scale projects in the programme. The Government also wishes to make maximum use of United Nations Volunteers and Associate Experts in those activities where their services could yield maximum benefits.

14. While UNDP resources available during the programming period are only $13,574,000, the programmed activities total $15,934,000. In anticipation of a sizeable increase in the amount of the next cycle IPF, and taking into account the possibility of slippage, the Government felt that provision of $2,360,000 could be made for adequate programming.

IV. Special development problems and needs of the country

15. Somalia is one of the least developed countries, with an area of 638,000 sq. km. and a population density of 7.8 persons per sq.km. The cost of infrastructure for development is therefore often prohibitive. The problem has been further accentuated by the fact that 60 per cent of the population are livestock-keeping nomads whose lifestyle defies the Government's efforts at organized development.

16. Since 1970, the Government has adhered to a programme of "scientific socialism" emphasizing egalitarianism and social justice. Development efforts have been characterized by austerity and self-reliance. The mobilization of the people has led to the formation of co-operatives and to commencement of self-help activities. At the same time, the Government has engaged in a massive education campaign, aimed at satisfying the population's basic needs. Despite this progress, the country and its people remain rather poor. Life expectancy, at 43 years, is one of the lowest in the world; 15-20 per cent of the children born in Somalia will die before they reach one year of age; and probably another 15 per ccent will die before the age of five. Almost three-quarters of both rural and nomadic families have incomes below the poverty line.

17. The country suffered from a severe drought in 1974-1975. In addition to the resulting loss of human life and property, it is estimated that 20 per cent of the sheep and goats and 25 per cent of the cattle perished during the drought. About 274,000 persons were given relief in shelter camps and permanent resettlement has been arranged for about 120,000 people. The country is yet to recover fully from the after-effects of the drought and the resettlement porjects need further assistance.

18. The country needs skilled personnel at all levels. But, at the same time, there is a tendency among the few available skilled personnel to leave the country to work in the oil-rich neighbouring countries. The drain of qualified human resources caused by this labour migration may hamper the implementation of the Government's development strategy.

19. As a result of the Ogaden war, the country has also sustained an influx of refugees, now estimated at about 1 million, about one-half of whom are registered in refugee camps. It is beyond the Government's capacity to feed and maintain them.

20. Economic indicators over the past few years suggest that production and income have stagnated, although good weather during the past few seasons has produced fairly good harvests. The main export items show either stagnation or declines in volume. The central Government's current budget was in deficit in 1977 and in 1978, largely because of increasing expenditures and a tax base which is not expanding. The result has been increasing dependence on external resources. The Government hopes therefore that the international community will increase substantially its assistance to the country.

V. Recommendation of the Administrator

21. In the light of the views expressed above, the Administrator recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the proposed UNDP Country Programme for Somalia for the duration of its programme period, within the limits of its Indicative Planning Figure for 1977-1981, taking into account the balance of over-expenditure of its 1972-1976 Indicative Planning Figure; and

(b) Authorize the Administrator to proceed with appraisal and approval action on requests for assistance falling within the outlines of the Country Programme while ensuring, in accordance with the decision of the Governing Council at its eighteenth session (E/5543/Rev.1, paragraph 31), that expenditures are kept in reasonable conformity with the relevant Indicative Planning Figures and are contained within the financial resources available at any given time.

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